

McManus Minutes

February 27, 2004

Legislators commend Judge Gilbert's decision not to seek re-election

State Senators Michelle A. McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, and State Representative Ken Bradstreet, R-Gaylord, applauded the decision of District Court Judge Thomas Gilbert not to seek re-election when his term ends later this year. The Michigan State Supreme Court suspended Gilbert without pay six months ago after he admitted to smoking marijuana during his time on the bench. He has been silent until recently when he announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election.

McManus, Cropsey, and Bradstreet have been in contact with Gilbert since the incident, asking him to respond to questions about drug use during his tenure as an elected official. The three had been prepared to take the matter before the Legislature if Gilbert had not pulled out of the race.

Legislative Republicans introduce next JOBS plan

Senate and House Republicans this week unveiled the next phase of their comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan's stalled economy. The second phase of the legislative JOBS plan – Job Opportunities for Business Success – targets tax relief for businesses that create new jobs and eliminates many of the barriers to entrepreneurial activities.

The JOBS II plan is a broad-ranging call to action on Michigan's job creation front. Specifically, it provides tax relief to businesses that create new jobs, eliminates taxation of federal and state research funds and cuts red-tape nightmares by creating a "bureaucracy buster team" to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses. It also helps businesses by simplifying the filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms and calls on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

E-filing

Hoping to receive your income tax return quickly this year? Then consider e-filing. According to the Michigan Department of Treasury, more than 1.7 million Michigan taxpayers chose to e-file their 2002 income tax returns, making Michigan third in the nation for e-filing. The benefits of e-filing include: receiving your Michigan refund in about seven business days; access to filing 24 hours a day, seven days a week; a significant reduction in errors versus paper returns; and quick confirmation (within three business days) that your return was accepted for processing by the IRS and the State of Michigan. Not only is e-filing quicker and more convenient, but it's also safe and secure. All your confidential information is encrypted -- only you or your tax preparer can see your return. For more information, log on to: <http://www.michigan.gov/treasury>.

Michigan apples now adding to Mexican meals

State leaders celebrated the first batch of Michigan apples heading to Mexico this week. After eight years of trying, Michigan officials have gotten the approval of the Mexican government to export the apples. State officials believe Mexico could become Michigan's largest export market for the fruit, selling up to \$6 million worth in five years. The approval process took time because apple growers had to develop a way to ensure no insects or diseases were exported to Mexico along with the fruit.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmanus>, you can also call my office toll free at 866-305-2135.